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COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: take 1 of 3 -- pravda interviews kgb's chebrikov

SOURCE: moscow pravda in russian 2 sep 85 first edition pp 1, 3
TEXT:

[interview with v.m. chebrikov, member of the cpsu central committee politburo and chairman of the USSR KGB, by a. karpychev and a. chernyak: "restructuring and the work of the chekists" -- date, place of interview not stated; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[text] there are many letters in the editorial mail asking for information about the activity of the USSR KGB in the conditions of restructuring. there are also other questions about the work of the chekists. we asked v.m. chebrikov, member of the cpsu central committee politburo and chairman of the USSR KGB, to answer them.

[interviewers] viktor mikhaylovich, you have been working in the USSR KGB for a long time, and have been its chairman since 1982. what do you see as the main tasks of the organs of state security today?

[chebrikov] first and foremost i would like to draw attention to a key word in our organization's title -- security. safeguarding the security of our socialist state, of our society, is still the task the party sets us today, the basic task for us.

of course, we safeguard the country's security in a different sphere from, say, the soviet army. the chekists' efforts are concentrated mainly on promptly exposing and stopping intelligence and subversive activity by foreign special services, as well as hostile actions by persons of an anti-soviet, antisocialist disposition within the country that are aimed at undermining and eliminating our existing system.

one of the main tasks of the committee for state security is the protection of the state border.

in accordance with USSR legislation, KGB organs are charged with the investigation of cases of treason against the motherland, espionage, terrorist acts, subversion, smuggling, violations of rules governing currency operations on a large scale, and a number of other crimes against the state.

the KGB is also charged with ensuring the scientific and technical protection of all types of secret communication in the country against radioelectronic surveillance by western special

services and developing the organizational principles for the security of this communication and for monitoring its condition. this is no easy task, and highly skilled experts in various spheres of science and technology are working on its resolution.

the tasks i have enumerated are, of course, not all the tasks facing the kgb, there are more of them. i expect we will talk about some of them in the course of our conversation.

[interviewers] our entire country is undergoing a restructuring. the all-union party conference outlined ways of further deepening it. in this context we would like to know how restructuring is going in the kgb.

[chebrikov] the chekists share the interests of all the soviet people. and they have adopted restructuring as their own vital cause. i would like to single out what i regard as the main element of restructuring in the kgb: work with cadres.

as you know, it was noted at the cpsu central committee january (1987) plenum that state security organs have cadres who are ideologically tempered, devoted to the party and people, and professionally trained. that is a high assessment. at the same time we realize that in present-day conditions exactingness should be increased still further in work with cadres.

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COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: take 2 of 8 -- PRAVDA Interviews KGB's Chebrikov

REF: pm0109173188 Moscow PRAVDA Russian 2 Sep///work with cadres.

TEXT:

[Text] The committee's leadership constantly bears in mind a question of fundamental importance -- the ability of our staffers to work in the new conditions, in the new political and moral atmosphere that is taking shape in society. In mastering these skills, our cadres undergo a real test of political maturity. Therefore we attach great significance to restructuring our staffers' thinking and abandoning stereotypes. It is this aspect of our work that should be stepped up particularly at the present stage.

Much is being done to maintain professional standards and legal competence and ensure the strictest, unswerving compliance with the spirit and letter of Soviet laws by every staffer.

Restructuring is also under way in the KGB party organization. Democratic principles and glasnost are spreading in the work of primary party organizations, taking into account, naturally, the specific nature of our activity. The Communists' activeness and militancy have increased, criticism and self-criticism have become more efficacious, and increased demands are made on communist leaders. This work was given a major boost by the preparations and holding of the 19th All-Union Party Conference and the decisions it adopted.

[Interviewers] Answering the last question, you spoke, in particular, of the great significance that the KGB attaches to work with cadres. Could you tell us, at least in brief, how people become chekists?

[Chebrikov] People come to us, to the KGB organs, on the recommendation of party and Komsomol organizations, mainly with higher education. They have the school of labor, service in the Soviet Army, and experience of social activity and party work behind them.

For obvious reasons, our selection procedures are strict. And here special attention is paid to ensuring that people recruited to the organs have a highly developed intellect, high moral qualities, and strong ideological tempering.

After enlistment to the service, the future workers undergo

specialized and legal training at one of the educational establishments in the KGB system, and then they are sent to the subunits of the state security organs.

Success in our work depends to a significant degree on the chekist's moral makeup and on the moral atmosphere in the chekist collective. We can say with satisfaction that the vast majority of workers are characterized by immunity to consumerism, cynicism, egotism, or indiscipline.

[Interviewers] Readers inquire: How are the processes of further widening of democracy that are taking place in society reflected in the work of the department you lead?

[Chebrikov] We are convinced that the processes of the widening of democracy and glasnost that have begun on the party's initiative contain tremendous potential for strengthening socialism.

Working under the party's leadership, Soviet chekists are well aware that the KGB organs and troops can only cope worthily with the resolution of the tasks facing them in present-day conditions provided their activity is organically combined with the process of widening of democracy and glasnost in society and provided they do not forget the political and lofty humanist nature of their work.

In the activity of state security organs, great significance is today attached to preventive work, the main purpose of which is to forestall in good time crimes against the state and other antisocial actions that touch on the interests of state security. More than any other form of chekist activity, this accords most fully with the spirit of the democratization taking place in the country. After all, we are talking about the struggle for a person who is on the brink of committing a crime against the state.

Helping the deviant to shed his delusions and comprehend the relationship between the interests of the individual and society, the citizen and the state, discovering a person's best qualities -- this, it seems to me, is one of the most honorable and gratifying aspects of the chekist's work. Naturally, an essential condition of preventive activity is compliance with the norms of the socialist rule of law and respect for Soviet people's rights and legitimate interests.

At the same time I wish to stress with the utmost clarity: Hostile elements and any other persons who embark on the path of antistate activity will be held responsible under the law. The law expresses the people's will. Disregard for the law, by whomsoever it may be, and disrespect for it are impermissible.

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COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: take 3 of 5 -- PRAVDA Interviews KGB's Chebrikov

REF: pm0109173182 Moscow PRAVDA Russian 2 Sep///it are impermissible.

TEXT:

[Text] In the conditions of the widening of democracy, in the KGB organs' activity great significance is attached to one of its fundamental Leninist principles -- the support of the broad masses of working people. F.E. Dzerzhinsky himself fought to establish this principle. Today this essential law of our work has a new resonance. Staffers of KGB organs devote tremendous attention to widening and strengthening links with the working people. They often visit labor collectives, address them, hold talks, and do much to improve the forms of public participation in the cause of safeguarding state security.

[Interviewers] It is well known that party and soviet organs, ministries, and departments receive citizens. Does the KGB do this?

[Chebrikov] We regard the work of receiving citizens as one form of implementing the principle of enlisting the masses' support and maintaining links with them in the activity of state security organs. To this end a reception service operates around the clock at the USSR KGB. Similar subunits exist at the union republic KGB's and in oblast and kray directorates.

Citizens are received in the reception rooms by reception service workers and staffers from other subdivisions of the committee. Leaders of the USSR KGB also meet members of the public there.

Citizens approach us with the most diverse questions, both verbal and written. They come to the reception service to report a planned or committed state crime or to submit proposals to improve the protection of state secrets. I must say that many reports by working people have helped us to prevent serious crimes, expose dangerous criminals, and investigate the circumstances surrounding serious emergencies. Applications are also made on personal matters. At times, critical remarks are made about some of our workers.

At the same time, we often have people coming to us with requests for help in the solution of questions which are simply beyond the powers of KGB organs. But even in those cases people

are attentively heard out and advised where to apply.

[Interviewers] KGB and glasnost... At first glance, these words might look unusual next to one another. What can be said about this?

[Chebrikov] I was expecting this question and I can say that I see nothing strange here. We perceive glasnost as one of the forms of our active contacts with working people. After all, if we say that we want the people to understand our activity, then we must display more of it. Much is being done here. In particular, we are engaged in joint work with journalists, writers, and moviemakers. Last year saw the publication of 235 books on topics concerning the Cheka, including more than 50 in languages of the peoples of the USSR, 10 full-length feature and documentary movies and 40 short cinema and television movies were released, and about 7,500 articles were published.

We have established relations of active collaboration with the editorial offices of PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and a number of other newspapers. I believe the public has already noticed that the weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY now carries a permanent rubric entitled "USSR KGB Reports and Comments."

I assume that, in the conditions of profound transformations in all spheres of the country's sociopolitical life, there is a pressing need for additional measures to publicize the activity of state security organs at the present stage and to inform the public of various aspects of Cheka work.

Of course, not everything can be told, not all documents can be published. In this case secrecy, as I have already said, is dictated by the specific nature of the struggle against secret subversive activity against our country and "100-percent" glasnost would be absurd in this case. But a more thorough analysis of material at our disposal shows that there is much that could be brought out in the open.

We are more prepared to answer questions, and we really have things to say. After all, the goals for which Chekists work and at times even sacrifice their lives are noble ones, these are the goals of our whole people.

[Interviewers] It is well known that the history of the state security organs contains tragic pages linked with unjustified repressions. In this context, our readers ask: Are there any guarantees that such things will not happen again?

[Chebrikov] I think that, to begin with, it must be said that the tragic pages which you mentioned exist not just in the history of state security organs. That was a hard time for our entire party, for the entire country.

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COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: take 4 of 8 -- PRAVDA Interviews KGB's Chebrikov

REF: pr0109173182 Moscow PRAVDA Russian 2 Sep///the entire country.

TEXT:

[Text] It is well known that the gravest violations of socialist legality were committed within state security organs during that period, and that many many Soviet people were subjected to unjustified repressions. An assessment of these violations has been provided by our party's Central Committee, and KGB staffers fully agree with it. Speaking of that period, it must be said that many Chekists at the time took a stand against the violations of socialist legality. But experienced cadre staffers were dismissed under various pretexts, and a sizable proportion of them were groundlessly convicted. More than 20,000 Chekists, highly skilled workers, and Communists devoted to the party fell victim to the repressions as a result of false accusations. Many of them started work under F.E. Dzerzhinskiy and V.R. Menzhinskiy. Among them are the prominent Soviet Chekists A.Kh. Artuzov, Ya.K. Berzin, M.I. Latsis, Ya.Kh. Peters, S.V. Puzitskiy, V.A. Styrne, G.S. Syroyezhkin, and I.S. Unshlikht; the first chiefs of military counterintelligence M.S. Kedrov and A.V. Eyduk; T.D. Deribas, chief of the Far East Kray NKVD Administration; R.A. Pilyar, chief of the Saratov Oblast NKVD Administration; his deputy, I.I. Sosnovskiy, and others.

The struggle against the subversive activity of foreign intelligence services and hostile elements would have been far more effective at that time if the work of state security organs had not been constrained by transgressions of the law and repressions against a large proportion of their staffers. But despite this, the Chekists continued to guard the interests of the Soviet state.

This is shown, for example, by the results of work by NKVD-NKGB organs on the eve of the war. So, in 1940 and the first quarter of 1941 in western regions of the Soviet Union a total of 66 fascist residences were discovered and more than 1,300 of their agents neutralized. The Chekists obtained important information on the military-political plans of the imperialist powers and accurate information on fascist Germany's preparations for war against the Soviet Union.

The combat work of members of state security organs during the

Great Patriotic War deserves a special appraisal. I will give you just a few figures. During the war years the activity of several thousand German fascist intelligence agents was halted, including that of 1,850 agents who parachuted into our country's rear regions. A total of 631 fascist agent radio stations were seized, more than 80 of which were used for radio games and sending the enemy disinformation. Simply as a result of this work they succeeded in neutralizing 400 agents and members of German intelligence. More than 2,000 operational groups were working in the enemy's rear; they took part in developing the partisan movement and supplying the Soviet command with valuable information on the enemy. These groups destroyed more than 200,000 Hitlerites in the enemy's rear, derailed some 3,000 special trains, and obtained information on 1,260 German intelligence agents in the Soviet rear. The names of the Chekists who worked behind the front line are well known: N.I. Kuznetsov, D.N. Medvedev, S.A. Baupshasov, V.A. Molodtsov, I.D. Kudrya, K.A. Geft, and many others.

The work done by the Chekists and the military work of border guards during the war undoubtedly constitutes a glorious page in the history of our state security organs. They made a significant contribution to the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War.

If we talk about the present day and guarantees that violations of socialist legality will not be repeated, I can say with great confidence that such guarantees do exist. What exactly do I have in mind? First and foremost, that the activity of state security organs is carried out under the leadership and control of the party, in strict accordance with the norms of existing legislation. The actions of KGB organs which affect the rights and legal interests of our citizens are constantly supervised by prosecutor's office organs. All criminal cases within our competence are examined solely within the legal procedure, as is well known.

KGB organs are involved with the USSR Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court in rehabilitating citizens unjustifiably repressed. Together with the party and the people we are striving to ensure that the good name of every innocent victim is restored.

Of course, it has to be admitted that errors still occur in the work of some of our personnel as well as deviations from the norms of criminal-procedure legislation. But we regard any deviation from the law as a calamity and the culprit is always severely punished, whatever post he occupies. This has been reported in the press. I want to stress once again that KGB organs and forces are geared to the need to operate strictly within the framework of the law and their authority and always act in accordance with political criteria and the demands of the party.

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COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: take 5 of 8 -- PRAVDA Interviews KGB's Chebrikov

REF: pm0109173185 Moscow PRAVDA Russian 2 Sep///of the party.

TEXT:

[Text] But there is another most important guarantee of the absolute observance of socialist legality in our work -- it is the very atmosphere in the party, in society, the atmosphere of expanding democracy and glasnost in the country.

[Interviewers] Another question from our readers: What new elements already exist or can be expected in the legal regulation of KGB organs' activity?

[Chebrikov] Additional measures are currently being adopted to strengthen the legal basis of the activity of USSR KGB organs and forces and clarify their place and role in the mechanism of the Soviet socialist state. In particular, in conjunction with interested departments a USSR Law on State Security is being prepared. I believe these measures will also contribute to the solution of the task of forming the socialist rule-of-law state as the form of organization and functioning of political power that fully accords with socialism and socialist democracy.

In this connection I also want to say that at the moment a great deal of attention is being paid anyway to improving Soviet legislation and implementing legal reform. They were discussed in detail at the 19th party conference. The implementation of its goals and the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee July (1988) plenum will certainly be a very big step forward on the road of strengthening and developing the fundamental principles of socialist statehood and the reform of Soviet society's political system. The KGB is actively involved in this work. We have made specific proposals on a whole range of draft unionwide legislative acts.

State security organs have participated in the elaboration of normative acts envisaging a considerable relaxation and simplification of measures connected with the protection of state secrets.

With the participation of the KGB a number of departments have declassified many materials to which access was restricted in the past for various reasons, which had made it difficult to use them for national economic and scientific purposes. A number of other

restrictions which were a breeding ground for formalism have been lifted. This work will continue in the future on the basis of the requisite balance and responsibility.

At the same time, I want to stress that the relaxation and simplification of the aforementioned measures by no means signifies that it is possible to relax vigilance and efforts to ensure the safety of state secrets. There must be no vague areas in this matter.

[Interviewers] What can you say about the activity of capitalist countries' special services in present-day conditions? What is actually being done to safeguard the interests of Soviet state security?

[Chebrikov] It is essential to be perfectly clear about the following. Despite a certain improvement in the international climate certain imperialist circles have not abandoned the course of confrontation. They are continuing to aim to achieve military superiority over the USSR, discredit the CPSU's domestic and foreign policy, and undermine and weaken our state and public security. The capitalist countries' special services, in close collaboration with one another, are increasing the scale of intelligence and subversion against the Soviet Union. This activity epitomizes the bourgeoisie's clear class attitude toward socialism.

I want to draw attention to the following. Quite frequently of late we have heard statements to the effect that we are allegedly frightening ourselves with "certain Western special services" and "mythical foreign agents" and are all but victims of our own "spymania." I believe that one must always take a realistic stance on this question. And the reality is as follows. The capitalist countries' special services exist, no one has abolished them and no one intends to abolish them; appropriations for their activity are not diminishing, in fact they are growing. It is perfectly clear against whom their activities are directed. There is plenty to corroborate this.

[Interviewers] Could you cite specific examples?

[Chebrikov] We have reliable information about attempts by foreign intelligence services to use agents to penetrate the Defense Ministry, the KGB, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a number of other state departments and important national economic installations in our country. In the last 2 and 1/2 years USSR KGB organs have exposed and instituted criminal proceedings against more than 20 dangerous agents of capitalist countries' intelligence services engaged in espionage. Unfortunately, there have also been KGB workers among them. It has to be admitted that our political, military, and economic interests have been damaged as a result of the activity of Western special services' agents. But we have managed to prevent even greater damage as a result of the exposures which I have mentioned.

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COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: take 6 of 8 -- PRAVDA Interviews KGB's Chebrikov

REF: BRD109172188 Moscow PRAVDA Russian 2 Sep 1987 have mentioned.

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[Text] Some more facts: In 1986-1987 more than 50 diplomats and correspondents from NATO countries, some of them caught red-handed while carrying out agent actions, were expelled from the Soviet Union for activity incompatible with diplomatic status. On 6 October 1987 the LOS ANGELES TIMES published an interview with U.S. CIA Director Webster. This is what he said, in part: "We are currently continuing to improve recruitment work inside the Soviet Union... Agents represent the basis of intelligence activity even in the age of spy satellites and other effective technical means." You couldn't put it plainer. Quite naturally we draw appropriate conclusions from this.

[Interviewers] And what can you say about the special services' use of these technical means?

[Chebrikov] The intelligence organs of the capitalist states, first and foremost the United States, make active use of the latest achievements, particularly in the field of modern space and electronic technology. The symbiosis of espionage and scientific and technical progress is also displayed in the activity of U.S. intelligence on the territory of the Soviet Union. In recent years state security organs have neutralized considerable numbers of complex and extremely expensive electronic complexes utilized by the American and other western special services to try to gain access to our secrets. Here is a characteristic example.

On the bottom of the Sea of Okhotsk 20 km from the Soviet coast we detected and removed two large deep-water containers each weighing 6 tonnes containing American intelligence apparatus designed to intercept information from a USSR Ministry of Communications underwater cable. The package of intelligence apparatus included a special device for picking up emissions from the cable, a programmable electronic system for recording intercepted information, around 100 multichannel magnetic recording units (blok), and a plutonium-238 atomic energy source posing a radiation pollution threat to the environment. The complex was designed to record in the course of a year all reports transmitted via the underwater communications cable. The complex was also

• fitted with a hydroacoustic beacon enabling American intelligence to rapidly find it to extract the accumulated information.

[Interviewers] Do the special services use special technical means in their work against Soviet establishments abroad and Soviet citizens in other countries?

[Chebrikov] The special services devote special attention to the utilization of diverse technical means for espionage purposes and the organization of the surveillance of Soviet citizens abroad. In 1981-1988 alone more than 200 instances of the installation of special information-gathering, monitoring, surveillance, and bugging equipment were discovered in Soviet establishments abroad.

More than 100 different bugging systems -- each of them designed to monitor a large number of office premises and apartments -- have been neutralized in the office and residential buildings of the USSR Consulate General in San Francisco, USSR missions to the United Nations in New York, and the new USSR embassy complex in Washington.

A considerable quantity of special apparatus designed for the surveillance of the personnel of Soviet establishments in the United States has been detected in their employees' cars.

Most of all the above-mentioned devices were developed on the basis of the most modern scientific and technical achievements and designed for many years of operation. Samples of some of the special technical means removed from the new embassy building and other Soviet establishments in the United States were displayed together with photographs at press conferences held last year by the USSR Foreign Ministry in Moscow and the USSR Embassy in Washington.

Measures to neutralize such large-scale technical penetration by the American special services of the office and residential buildings of USSR missions and establishments abroad required considerable efforts and great professional skill on the part of those responsible for the security of Soviet citizens working abroad.

I would also like to note that the special services also conduct subversive work against our friends and allies.

[Interviewers] What other areas of Western special services' activity could also be mentioned?

[Chebrikov] It is very transparent that they are attempting to utilize for their own ends the rapid development of the Soviet Union's trade, economic, scientific, and cultural ties with capitalist states. And not only to obtain secret information in which they are interested but also with a view to retarding scientific and technical progress in our country.

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COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: take 7 of 8 -- PRAVDA Interviews KGB's Chebrikov

REF: pm0109173185 Moscow PRAVDA Russian 2 Sep///in our country.

TEXT:

[Text] As I have already said, under the conditions of a dynamic political situation the capitalist countries' special services are constantly modifying the tactics of their intelligence and subversive activity. They resort to the most sophisticated subterfuges and at the same time do not shrink from the crudest provocations. This is well exemplified by their hostile actions against Soviet citizens and missions abroad. In the leading capitalist countries alone the special services have carried out more than 6,000 provocations in the last 3 and 1/2 years. These include explosions, instances of arson, and hooligan actions of various kinds. Recruitment campaigns, attempts to persuade Soviet people not to return to the USSR, kidnappings, and illegal arrests and detentions have become a regular occurrence. Exceptional danger is posed by the utilization of special psychotropic substances against Soviet citizens. In cases of this kind the so-called "champions of freedom and democracy" are not inclined to dilate on the theme of humanitarian principles and human rights.

[Interviewers] As is known, one of the main forms of subversive activity against our country is ideological sabotage. What are its particular features at present?

[Chebrikov] Indeed, this is the form of imperialism's subversive activity which has been widely utilized against socialism practically from the moment of the Soviet land's emergence. Ideological sabotage has always been directed at shaking Soviet people's socialist world outlook, at forming in them views and sentiments alien to our society, at inciting them to perpetrate anti-Soviet actions. Here too we encounter direct interference in our internal affairs, and crude falsity, slander, and juggling with the facts. This activity is directed and coordinated by special services which make active use of the mass media, the dispatching of their emissaries to our country, and other highly refined methods of hostile influence upon people and of inspiring antisocial manifestations. Now too the special services and subversive ideological centers, seeking to complicate restructuring, are endeavoring to stimulate the organization in our

country of illegal, semilegal, and even legal formations which would operate at their bidding. To achieve these aims they are seeking out in our society hostilely inclined individuals, taking measures to promote their organizational cohesion, rendering them moral and material support, and nudging them onto the path of direct struggle against the Soviet state and social system.

In modern conditions the West's special services are resorting to the most cunning devices in order to exacerbate the internal political situation in the USSR, they are attempting to discredit the leading role of the Communist Party and to inspire the emergence of a political opposition on the basis of some autonomous [samodeyatelnyye] groupings which are essentially hostile to restructuring.

Foreign subversive centers persistently try to introduce into Soviet people's consciousness the idea that the negative phenomena in the economic and social life of our country supposedly stem from the very essence of the socialist system and that the only possibility of achieving a real improvement in affairs is to reject the historic choice made by us, to reject socialism. They strenuously proclaim the values of bourgeois democracy. Unfortunately, people are to be found who -- if it is possible to express it so -- "take" the bait. It is precisely such people, in particular, that the special services bank on by enlisting them for unlawful activities.

[Interviewers] That's enough about the special services. Insofar as the protection of the Soviet Union's state border is -- as you have already stated -- under the jurisdiction of the KGB, we would like, at our readers' request, to put to you a question on the sort of tasks fulfilled by the USSR KGB Border Guard Troops.

[Chebrikov] The protection of the state border is an entire system of political, military, sanitary, classified, and other measures. And they are implemented by a number of state organs. Of course, the main force directly fulfilling this task is the Border Guard Troops. In line with the Law on the USSR State Border they are responsible for protecting the border on dry land, at sea, on rivers and lakes, and other bodies of water. In the airspace the state border is guarded by the country's Air Defense Forces.

The Border Guard Troops fulfill an extremely wide range of crucial tasks. Suffice it to mention such of these as repelling the armed invasion of the USSR's territory by military groups [voyskovyye gruppy] and bands, suppressing all manner of provocations, defending the border region's population against these criminal encroachments, preventing the crossing of the state border by unlawful means, implementing the passage across it of people, freight, and transport means, and combating smuggling.

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COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: take 3 of 3 -- PRAVDA Interviews KGB's Chebrikov

REF: pr010917318C Moscow PRAVDA Russian 2 Sep///and
combating smuggling.

TEXT:

[Text] There are also tasks about which the readers possibly know less. Thus, in conjunction with other departments border guards protect the USSR's 200-mile maritime economic zone and monitor the preservation of natural resources and the status of the environment.

[Interviewers] How would you describe the situation on the border at the present time?

[Chebrikov] On the whole it is stable. This is due largely to the foreign policy line pursued by the Soviet Union. Joint actions are carried out with the socialist countries to protect the common border. Border relations with the PRC have improved significantly recently. The situation on the border with Finland is an example of good-neighborliness and mutual understanding between states with different social systems.

At the same time we cannot close our eyes to the fact that certain circles seek to create seats of tension close to the Soviet border.

There are continuing attempts at legal and illegal penetration of our country by foreign intelligence agents, terrorists and emissaries from nationalist organizations are sent in, and means of espionage and sabotage and propaganda materials inciting extremism are shipped in. Smuggling continues, including such highly dangerous forms as, for instance, the illegal shipment of chemical and radioactive substances and drugs across the border and their transit through Soviet territory, which is also impermissible from the standpoint of the USSR's international commitments.

In view of the growth of international terrorism a special place in the activity of the Border Guard Troops is now assigned to stopping attempts by terrorists to penetrate the USSR and attempts to ship in means of sabotage and terrorism.

Together with customs organs, the Border Guard Troops conduct a struggle against smuggling. On average every year hundreds of thousands of items of contraband worth a total of R14-15 million are confiscated on the USSR State Border. In recent years Soviet border guards have often had to render harmless armed

smugglers who were attempting to cross the border other than at checkpoints. In these instances alone, more than 2 tonnes of drugs were confiscated in the last 5 years.

[Interviewers] Has restructuring affected the Border Guard Troops? What new things have emerged in their activity?

[Chebrikov] Undoubtedly. By ensuring reliability in protecting the border, the essential purpose of this activity is to create the most favorable conditions for our country's constantly expanding international ties. The number of border checkpoints is being increased, formalities are being simplified and reduced, and other measures are being taken aimed at speeding up the transit of people and freight.

On the border with the socialist countries monitoring of passengers and transport in conjunction with those countries' border guards is being introduced, and a simplified crossing procedure for people living in border regions is in operation.

With the aim of reducing restrictions on the activity of our citizens in the border zone, measures are being taken in conjunction with the appropriate Soviet organs to reduce the border zone. The procedure for entry into this zone and movement within it is also being simplified. This process will continue.

[Interviewers] And in conclusion, Viktor Mikhaylovich, this question. How would you generally formulate your position with respect to the problems which concern our society today?

[Chebrikov] Above all I would like to stress that there is complete unity in our Politburo on fundamental questions. As for my personal position, I support the political platform advanced by the party at the Central Committee Plenum in April 1985 and confirmed by the 27th party congress, subsequent Central Committee plenums, and the 19th All-Union Party Conference. I believe that the further strengthening of the CPSU's leading and organizing role and its prestige in the eyes of the working people is essential. I am in favor of the expansion of democracy and glasnost, radical, scientifically based economic reform, reform of the political system, and the full unfolding of the socialist system's potential.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that the organs of the country's state security, working under the CPSU's leadership, will do everything necessary to be equal to the demands that are being made of them, will demonstrate vigilance, restraint, and firmness in the struggle against any encroachments on our state and social structure, and will assist in every way the party's course aimed at restructuring and the renewal of Soviet society.

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